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GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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L. Perez Parra

TARASCOS OF MEXICO'S ONCE-WILD WEST HAVE CRAFTS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN

Tarascan Indians, different from the Aztecs and the Mayas of Mexico's east, had their kingdom in what is now Michoacan State on the west coast. As their chief was roasted alive by Spanish Conquistadores, they have a tradition of being reticent with white men. They long had practiced handicraft tricks unknown elsewhere, such as the tempering of copper. Spaniards valued their feather pictures made of hummingbird wings, turtle-shaped bells of silver and gold, and the still widely famed lacquerware of wood or gourds, known as *bateas* (above). At Uruapan they make lacquer from a neighborhood insect similar to the lac insect of the Orient. They cut designs into the wood or gourd, fill the shallow carving with bright color, and polish the surface until smooth and gleaming (Bulletin No. 2).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

The Mediterranean's Sicilian Narrows, Water-Bridge to Europe

THE battle for Tunisia, in which a half-million Allied troops are involved, is a deadly struggle for an invisible bridge 90 miles long that spans the Mediterranean.

This "bridge" is really an unbridged gap between Europe and Africa at the mid-Mediterranean's narrowest spot, through which the blue and frequently stormy waters move their almost tideless currents. Between Cap Bon, the northeastern-most tip of Tunisia, and the southwesternmost tip of the island of Sicily only 90 miles of water intervene. This is the shortest distance between Africa and Europe east of Gibraltar.

Where the Mediterranean Is Narrower than the English Channel

The English Channel, which likewise separates Allied forces from Nazi enemies in Europe, is narrower than the Mediterranean's Sicilian Channel only in its eastern part. At Le Havre, the English Channel is 85 miles wide; west of there it is wider.

Throughout history, the traffic across the Mediterranean at its central narrows has been so heavy as to create the impression of a bridge. Most recently, this has been the route by which the Nazis, under protection of Sicilian-based planes, have poured reinforcements into Tunisia. By this same short hop, for a half-century before, numerous Sicilians and Italians had crossed to Africa to build their large non-French settlements in French-governed Tunisia.

Four centuries ago the powerful King Charles V of Spain, who was also monarch of Sicily, reached indignant hands across the Sicilian sea-narrows and snatched Tunis briefly from the Barbary pirates. Four centuries before his time an earlier king of Sicily had stepped across the sea at the same spot and taken possession of choice ports of the African coast.

Empires Fought to Control the Volcano-Built Bottleneck

The Sicilian Channel marks the Mediterranean's division into a well-watered triangular western basin and an oval eastern basin, twice as large, where drought brings the desert in many places almost to the sea. Differences in climates and civilizations have encouraged traffic through the narrows between the up-and-coming West and the thirsty, mystic Near East. Control of the Sicilian Channel bottleneck, which means power over inter-basin shipping, has been a favorite dream of Mediterranean empire builders.

Ancient Carthage, rising beside the site of modern Tunis to fulfill Queen Dido's dream, threw a bridge of authority across these narrows about 550 B. C., taking possession of old Phoenician towns of western Sicily which survive today as Palermo and Marsala. The Punic Wars between Carthage and Rome were waged across the narrows, with Carthage in the first war using Sicily as a base against Rome and Rome in the second war turning Sicilian bases against Carthage.

When the Moslem Saracens, those careful students of geography, were pushing their empire into the Mediterranean's western basin, they quietly closed their grip on the Sicilian bottleneck by capturing Marsala, in 827 A. D.

One of history's distinguished travelers through the Sicilian Channel was the Apostle Paul, whose voyage to Rome was interrupted by shipwreck at Malta.

The channel is so shallow—about 100 fathoms, or 600 feet—that it is supposed

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MEXICO'S HORN OF PLENTY POURS OUT WAR SUPPLIES

Antimony, lead, zinc, copper, and guayule rubber are a few of the war commodities of which the United States is borrowing more than a cupful over the back fence from this next door neighbor to the south. Mexico's cornucopia shape is symbolic of abundance.

Modern Mexico is a federated republic like the United States, with 28 states, 2 territories, and a Federal District comparable to the District of Columbia. The name of old Mexico City is officially Mexico, D. F. (Distrito Federal), the capital, now a city of more than a million and a half inhabitants.

Climate in mountain-tumbled Mexico is largely a matter of altitude. Varying by tiers, it ranges from tropical heat along the coastal lowlands—called *tierra caliente*, "hot land"—to cool-to-bitter temperatures in the high mountains. The magnificent Sierra Madre Mountains, reaching their highest peak at Citlaltepec (Orizaba, 18,700 feet), rise in three principal ranges, which enclose the country's central "heart-land" plateau.

Physically Mexico is a land of contrast and paradox. Although its size is only about a quarter of that of the United States, its coastline is 500 miles longer. Some 1,700 miles of this distance is accounted for by the slim peninsula of Baja (Lower) California, a dry, mountainous arm reaching into the Pacific, which Mexico already had garrisoned before declaring war on June 1, 1942. The Yucatán Peninsula, jutting into the Gulf of Mexico, is the birthplace of chicle for chewing gum.

The thread of Mexico's section of the Pan American Highway winds through the Eastern and Southern Sierra Madres into Guatemala.

The country remains a land of villages and towns, with barely 13 cities of more than 50,000 inhabitants. (By contrast, the United States has about a hundred twice as large and larger.) After Mexico, D. F., the largest are Guadalajara, with a quarter-million people; Monterrey, with about 180,000; and Puebla, with 137,000. Mérida, León, Tampico, Aguascalientes, and San Luis Potosí follow (Bulletin No. 2).

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Mexico, Nearest Latin American Ally to United States

(This is the eleventh of a series of bulletins, with maps and illustrations, on the republics of Latin America.)

MEXICO, Uncle Sam's nearest southern neighbor and war ally, is a land painted in bold colors. Drama and contrast mark its people, its landscape, and its history. It is rich in natural resources, many of special value in war.

With more than 760,000 square miles, Mexico tapers south of the Rio Grande in the rough form of a cornucopia, or "horn of plenty." It is more than four times the size of pre-Nazi Germany. But its people number only about nineteen and a half million. Some 30 per cent of them are pure Indians and more than 60 per cent are of mixed Indian and Spanish blood.

Land of Sixty Languages, Mostly Indian

At least 60 languages and dialects are spoken in Mexico; 50 or more are Indian tongues.

Even to the casual visitor, Mexico shows many faces. It has its bankers and stenographers, "California bungalows," smart shops, and factories, along with the burro, adobe hut, and barefoot peon in broad hat and white cottons. Radios and airplanes are familiar phases of life in a country which, in some rural sections, still holds to stone-ground corn and old superstitions.

To the archeologist Mexico is a fertile field for research into Aztec and Maya civilizations which flourished in pre-Columbian days. Economists and sociologists study there such revolutionary programs as the government's redistribution of farm land under the *ejido*, or village-cooperative plan.

Mexico has all kinds of terrain, from below sea level in the Mexican Imperial Valley along the California border to 18,700-foot Citlaltepec (map, inside cover), cactus-spiked deserts in the north to rain-drenched tropical forests in the south.

Central Plateau Holds High Capital

The major feature of Mexico is the high central plateau, where most of the people live. The capital city—Mexico, D. F. (Federal District)—lies in the heart of the south-central plateau over 7,000 feet above sea level.

Farm land is limited, as much of Mexico is too dry, too steep, or both. Yet more than 70 per cent of working Mexicans make their living from the soil. For home use they raise corn (their chief staple), beans, rice, peppers, sugar cane, chickens, and pigs. Their export crops include avocados, spring vegetables, citrus fruits, coffee, cacao, and bananas.

In the southeast peninsula of Yucatán nearly half of the world's supply of sisal is raised in normal times. Forest products, such as chicle exported to the U. S. for chewing gum, are among other valuable resources.

Mexico's chief natural wealth is in its mines and oil fields. Until the government took possession in 1938, foreign companies owned practically all of the petroleum properties, and still control more than 90 per cent of the mines. A rich source of petroleum, in 1940 the country produced 44 million barrels.

Gold and silver mines, which once poured wealth into the Spanish treasury, in 1940 yielded some 83,000,000 ounces of silver and 950,000 ounces of gold. Even more important in the machine-age warfare of today are lead, zinc, copper, tin, and tungsten. Of special interest to the war economy of the U. S., cut off

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to be an old broken-down land-bridge that sank beneath the waves at some time in the not too remote past. Animals once walked across, including perhaps the dwarf elephants of Malta. Migrating birds still follow this route.

Ghost Island Comes and Goes

Humps on the drowned land-bridge that now project above the water are such islands as the Malta cluster and the flat, waterless rocks of Lampione and Lampedusa (whose "lamp" names may have come from bonfires lighted to guide sailors).

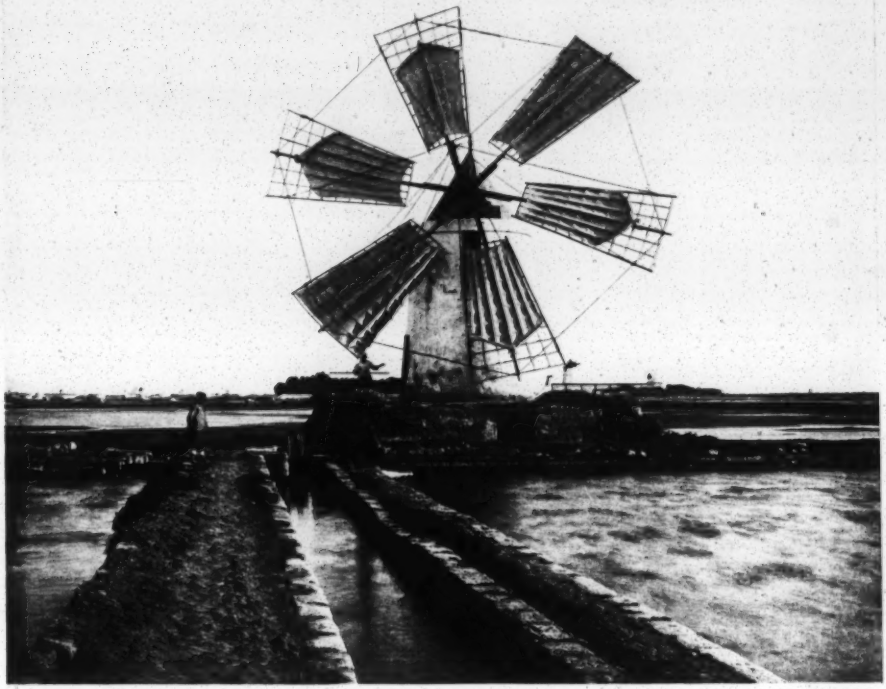
Other islands stand as monuments to the underwater upheavals that brought the land-bridge down. Solitary Pantelleria, within sight of Sicily, is volcano-built. Small Linosa is dotted with craters.

A ghost island haunts the narrows, under the names of Julia and Graham's Island—a volcanic cone that emerged from the Mediterranean in 1831 and was claimed by England and Naples. Within a few months it had dropped from sight.

Note: The Sicilian Narrows are shown on the National Geographic Society's Maps of Central Europe and the Mediterranean, and Classical Lands of the Mediterranean. A price list of maps may be obtained from the headquarters of the Society in Washington, D. C.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, February 3, 1941: "Sicilian Channel Dramatizes Duel Between Sea and Air Power."

Bulletin No. 1, March 1, 1943.



Alinari

BOTTLENECK CURRENTS OF THE NARROWS BRING SALT TO SICILY'S MILLS

Because the Mediterranean is smaller and shallower, with fewer fresh-water tributaries, it loses more water by evaporation and has a higher salt content than does the Atlantic, especially in the eastern basin. Currents curling through the Sicilian Channel pour salty floods into cement reservoirs along Sicily's coasts. As the sea water evaporates, the salt is collected and refined in mills powered by wind. Its bridgehead position at the northeast end of the Mediterranean's central narrows has brought Sicily much commerce and carnage. From Carthaginians to Nazis, would-be conquerors of the Mediterranean try to hold Sicily and Tunisia.

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Saving Soles Becomes Home Front Duty

SHOE rationing is here. Americans, the best shod people on earth, bought an average of three and a half pairs of shoes apiece in 1941, and again in 1942. Now civilians must slow down to a limit of three pairs—just when they are learning the joys of walking to market, to work, and to play.

Not even last year, however, did everyone have three pairs. The men got along with an average of two, boys with one and a third. It was the women, the girls, and the rapidly growing infants who raised the average by using nearly four pairs apiece.

Although the home of only 6 per cent of the world's people, the U. S. in 1941 supplied its inhabitants with nearly 40 per cent of the world's shoes.

Fighting Man Needs Ten Times as Much Leather as Civilian

Reason for rationing is war's enormous appetite for heavy sole leather of the best grade. The rookie soldier wears out ten pairs of shoes on and off the drill field in his first year, according to War Department records. Thereafter he needs six pairs a year, instead of the two he used as a civilian.

In addition, war uses large quantities of good leather for belts, straps, gloves, helmets, leggings, jackets, holsters, saddles, bridles and harness, and instrument cases. "Leatherneck" and "hell-for-leather" are American terms that reflect the fighting man's need for leather, estimated at ten times the civilian need. Even as today, the Civil War and World War I brought booms to the shoe and leather industry.

Strangely enough, the leather that does such heavy duty in war never quite escapes the curse of being a by-product. It comes from cattle hides. The beef of the cattle is worth far more than the hide. So the demand for beef instead of the demand for hides dictates the size of herds and the number of cattle slaughtered.

The weight of shoe leather depends largely on the age of the animal that supplied the hide. Calfskin is lightweight. Medium weight leather, called kipskin, comes from cattle up to five years old. Heavy hides, suitable for thick sole leather, come from cattle older than five years.

U. S. Herds Produce Finest Hides

The tanner these days finds that the ship shortage has upset imports of hides from South America, normally 10 to 15 per cent of his total supply. The calfskins, kipskins, and heavy hides available within the United States are limited by the whims of the market for beef. Fortunately, cattle herds here are now large, with a high proportion of cattle old enough to have heavy, five-year-old hides. In January, 1942, this country's farms and ranches supported 74,600,000 cattle (of which just over a third were milk cows).

This total is a poor second numerically to the 210,000,000 cattle in India, home of about 25 per cent of the world's meat cattle. But scientific breeding, raising, and hide-handling make the U. S. hide output more valuable. Argentina ranks third in quantity of cattle and second to the U. S. in commercial value of hides.

In the past ten years, the U. S. has imported annually about 2½ million hides, chiefly from Argentina, Canada, Uruguay, and Brazil. Adding these to domestic supplies, the country has used just under 20,000,000 hides a year.

For 1943, cattle hides available to American tanners and shoe manufacturers

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from peacetime supplies, is antimony, vital in making storage batteries for tanks, airplanes, and submarines. In Mexican deserts grows guayule, a plant from which rubber is made. In a recent year guayule rubber amounted to 3,000 tons, most of which was exported to the U. S.

In the four centuries since Cortés' conquest, Mexico has seen violent history. In 1519 armored Conquistadores easily subdued bow-and-arrow-carrying Aztecs for three centuries of Spanish exploitation. In 1821 came independence and a period of struggles and counter-struggles for power, including a bid for control from France. In 1911 the stormy "revolutionary epoch" began, and upsets in government were mingled with social reform and far-reaching economic experiments.

Note: Mexico is shown on the National Geographic Society's Map of Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies.

For additional material, see in the *National Geographic Magazine:* "Finding Jewels of Jade in a Mexican Swamp," November, 1942; "Baja California Wakes Up," August, 1942; "On the Cortés Trail," September, 1940*; "Riatas and Romance on the Rio Grande," October, 1939*; and "Yucatán, Home of the Gifted Maya," November, 1936*. *(Issues marked with an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers at 10¢ a copy in groups of 10.)*

Bulletin No. 2, March 1, 1943.

Luis Marden

MAIN STREET IN MANY A MEXICAN VILLAGE COMBINES CHURCH AND CORNFIELD

Drowsy Ixhuacán de los Reyes, in Veracruz State southwest of Jalapa, is typical of Mexico's mountain villages. It lies in a sheltered pocket in the Eastern Sierra Madre. Wooded mountains loom behind its twin-towered church and the roofs of square stone houses. Carved wooden grilles (right) give street floor windows an old-fashioned Spanish seclusion. The men pull straw sombreros over their eyes to keep out the sun and wear undyed white wool *sarapes* to keep out the cold. Much of this region is coffee country, with occasional banana plantations, orange groves, and ranches where bulls are bred for city bullfights. To the south stands Citlaltepec (Orizaba, also Citlaltepetl), Mexico's highest. This village was in existence when Hernán Cortés struggled up the mountain slopes on his conquest of Mexico.

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Kharkov, Hub of Ukrainian Activity

THE Russian drive into the Ukraine to recover Kharkov, occupied by Nazi invaders since October, 1941, was a battle for the fourth-largest city to be found in all of the U. S. S. R.'s 8,000,000 square miles. Only Moscow, Leningrad, and Kiev—before the war—were larger.

Although the capital of the Ukrainian S. S. R. was shifted from Kharkov to Kiev in 1934, the former city nevertheless had seen a boom in building and industry in the 15 years before the war. By 1939, Kharkov's population had reached 830,000—nearly twice the figure for 1926.

Brought Together Coal and Iron: Got Tools of Peace and War

Dominating the eastern Ukraine, Kharkov stands in the midst of the fertile black earth steppes, near the two-thirds point on a line drawn south from Moscow to the Sea of Azov.

The city is one of the most important railroad junctions of southern Russia, with six lines radiating from its extensive railway yards. One links the city with Moscow in the north, another runs to the Crimea in the southwest. Other lines run southeast to the Caucasus, southwest into the iron-mining region around Krivoi Rog, west to the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, and east and northeast to tap the resources of the behind-the-lines territory in the Don and Volga valleys.

The growth of Kharkov was stimulated by the availability of the rich coal fields of the Donets Basin to the southeast, which supplied fuel for processing the iron brought from Krivoi Rog.

Until devastated by war, Kharkov was an industrial city turning out locomotives, electric turbines, factory machines, and tractors—all essential to the functioning of the nation's farms, factories, and transportation systems. With the black earth belt of the rich Ukraine to serve, the city had made a specialty of farm machinery.

The overrunning of the Ukraine by the Germans in October, 1941, put an end to Kharkov's normal industrial activity, which produced also such smaller commodities as prepared foods, bicycles, rope, soap, confectionery, and tobacco.

Fifty Libraries among Handsome Modern Buildings

Before the intensive bombing which preceded the German occupation, and the fires that turned the city into a sea of flames, Kharkov was one of the best built and handsomest of Soviet communities. Founded in the 17th century but later destroyed and rebuilt, it was modern in appearance. It had broad, tree-lined avenues and many large and imposing buildings, among which was the collective group known as the House of State Industries.

For recreation and health there were many theaters and clubs, as well as a huge stadium and a "Palace of Physical Culture."

In recent years, Kharkov's old cobblestones had been replaced by asphalt. New department stores, hotels, office buildings, modernistic factories and apartment houses, schools, hospitals, and workers' clubs rose to flank the newly paved thoroughfares. Bright window boxes and green and flower-planted parks added splashes of color to a hurrying, hard-working city.

Kharkov also ranked among the leading educational and scientific centers of the Soviet Union, with more than 50 libraries, and a number of technical schools

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are estimated at 22,000,000. The needs of the armed forces plus lend-lease shipments to United Nations allies are estimated to require about 7,000,000. Civilians therefore may be allotted 15,000,000 hides, good for at least 315,000,000 pairs of shoes. Left-overs from the all-time record production of 498,384,000 pairs in 1941 and nearly as many in 1942 will piece out the current supply, with reserves in consumers' wardrobes as well as in retailers' and manufacturers' stocks.

In addition to cattle hides, many other leathers are on call to be made into shoes. Handsome, long-wearing Cordovan, a horsehide leather, is on the upswing for men's shoes, and goat, kid, shark, snake, and kangaroo for women's.

The Machine Age brought shoe wealth out of proportion to population in the U. S., along with wealth in automobiles, electrical conveniences, educational opportunities, and many classes of food, shelter, and raiment. While this country, with 131,000,000 people, in 1941 made 498,000,000 pairs of shoes, all the twenty Latin American republics south of the Rio Grande, with 127,000,000 people, produced an estimated 63,000,000 factory-made pairs.

Closest rival to the United States in shoe wealth is Canada, whose consumption before the war was two pairs per capita.

Bulletin No. 3, March 1, 1943.

J. Baylor Roberts

THE DOGS OF WAR ARE DEVOURING SHOE LEATHER

The miles of drilling and hiking each soldier does daily, constantly wearing out shoes, explain why there is not enough leather to supply civilians—especially women—with the pre-war abundance of footgear to which they have been accustomed. Leather thick enough for soles is obtained from the hides of cattle five years old and over. A large proportion of the supply must go to make the nine pairs of shoes the Army always has earmarked for each man—three in the man's possession, four in Army depots waiting to be delivered, one in the process of manufacture, and the ninth on order. In two or three weeks such sturdy shoes as these may be completely worn out, requiring more of the tough sole leather for repairs. To assure a comfortable fit, the Army must keep well stocked with shoes in 238 different sizes and lasts, up to size 16.

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Geo-Graphic Brevities

ANCIENT TROGLODYTE VILLAGE A STOP ON ROMMEL'S FLIGHT

MÉDENINE, where Nazi General Rommel took refuge for a while from General Montgomery's conquering army, has been a cave-dwellers' refuge for centuries. This is one of Tunisia's odd communities of troglodytes—people who live in holes in the ground or cliffs instead of houses.

The principal French outpost in southeastern Tunisia, Médenine is situated about 45 miles southeast of the Mediterranean port of Gabès. It stands beside a road that joins Libia's 1150-mile coastal highway linking Tunisia and Egypt.

West of Médenine the Mareth Line of fortifications, a "Little Maginot" chain of pillboxes and sunken cement forts, crosses the bottleneck formed by the Matmata Mountains and the coast and then dips southward over the mountains.

To meet military needs the French built a modern town near the native settlement of Médenine. Its broad streets, stucco barracks and government buildings, palm-shaded villas for French officials, and radio station contrast strangely with the vaulted earthen dwellings and the tall clifflike "apartment houses" built by the troglodytes as a refuge from Arab invaders in the seventh century.

Built of stone and native sun-dried bricks, these latter edifices consist of rows of man-built "caves," piled one layer on another, sometimes five stories high. Each "apartment" is a copy of a cave dug into a cliff—one windowless room with but one entrance. Only the doors, usually two feet wide and four feet high, are of wood. The benches and beds, like the houses, are of stone, or an adobelike material. Upper rooms, reached by steps which project from the outside of the walls, are often used for storing tools and grain.

Flat-topped houses of steel and cement are replacing Médenine's troglodyte dwellings, although many natives still live in the ground floors of the old buildings. The men spend most of the year away from home, following their herds.

* * * * *

ADANA FOLLOWS CASABLANCA AS WAR CONFERENCE SITE

ADANA, where Winston Churchill met Turkish officials after his Casablanca conference with President Roosevelt, is Turkey's fourth-largest city, with a population of nearly 90,000. It is about 30 miles inland from the Mediterranean. The Seyhan River flows through the city, where it is spanned by a long multiple-arch stone bridge, more than a thousand years old (illustration, next page).

Twice before in this century Adana made the headlines. In 1909 occurred the Adana Massacre, during which three to four thousand persons, most of them Armenians, were killed in the streets or burned in their homes. During 1919-21 the city was occupied by the French Army.

The fertile Cilician Plain surrounding the city was one of the granaries of the ancient world. Although it has maintained an important place in agriculture and trade, the city since early times has had prosperity repeatedly snatched from it by wars. Under the rule of the Ottomans the region was allowed to decay. Its present-day standing is due largely to the introduction of American cotton seed.

Cotton now is the chief crop of the Cilician Plain, surpassing both wheat and tobacco. Scientific methods of farming were demonstrated in the Adana region. As early as 1925 American tractors worked the fields day and night.

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and museums. Its university was established in 1805. The remodeled "Palace of Young Pioneers" was a combination museum and working laboratory for youth, where such varied subjects as aviation, art, physics, the theater, and agricultural and natural science were studied.

During the civil war and foreign intervention which followed the 1917 Revolution, Kharkov was occupied in turn by the Germans, the Ukrainian Nationalists, the "Reds," the "Whites," and finally, in 1920, again by the "Red" forces.

Note: Kharkov is shown on the National Geographic Society's Map of Europe and the Near East, and Map of Asia and Adjacent Areas.

For further information on the U. S. S. R., see the following articles in the *National Geographic Magazine:* "Mother Volga Defends Her Own," December, 1942; and "Roaming Russia's Caucasus," July, 1942; and these GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "The Frosty Caucasus Wall, Russia's Mountain Rampart," November 2, 1942; "Flat Russia's Winter Sweeps Far South," October 26, 1942; and "Russia's Oil Reserves Found from Volga to Pacific," December 8, 1941.

Bulletin No. 4, March 1, 1943.

International Newsreel

HOT TEA SUBSTITUTES FOR CENTRAL HEATING IN KHARKOV

Fuel rationing, introduced this winter into the U. S., was nothing new in Kharkov. There the Ukrainian winter cold often called for overcoats, fur hats, and shawls indoors when fuel was needed for non-civilian purposes. Before the war, these workers were photographed drinking steaming tea from mug-size cups in a government-operated tearoom. The poster on the wall urges the *tovarisches* ("comrades") to help speed the development of the Ukraine's resources of factory and farm—resources which contributed heavily to the U. S. S. R.'s defense before the Ukraine was overrun by Nazis.

The Turkish government has established many public works there: a power plant, a textile factory, a malaria institute, and a model farm.

* * * * *

MAIKOP WELLS SUPPLIED LESS THAN TENTH OF RUSSIAN OIL

EVEN in the huge territories of the U. S. S. R. which the Russians have recovered in their winter counterattack, the city of Maikop is not insignificant. This is the center of the only important Russian oil field that fell into the hands of Nazi invaders. The wells, however, are assumed to have been destroyed, under the Russians' scorched-earth policy, before their capture.

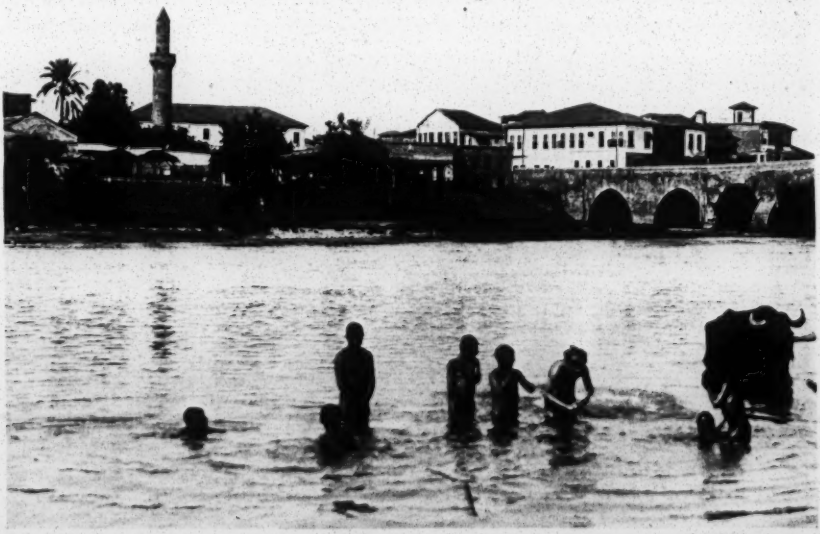
Maikop stands beside the Belaya River, 65 air miles east of the Black Sea coast, in the foothills of the great snow-capped Caucasus Range's northern slopes. The city, before the war, had a population of more than 50,000 people. It was long a distributing center for produce from surrounding farm lands.

A ten-mile spur railroad linked Maikop with a branch of the Trans-Caucasus trunkline that reaches from Baku on the Caspian to Rostov on the Don River.

Since 1891 Maikop has figured in the oil production of the Caucasus region, although overshadowed by the main fields around Baku, some 600 miles to the southeast, and the secondary fields around Grozny, 300 miles southeast. In normal times the Maikop fields yielded less than one-tenth of the total Caucasus output.

An oil pipe line, until put out of operation by the war, ran through the Maikop field. Through it oil flowed to the Black Sea port of Tuapse, and also to Krasnodar, an important oil-refining center of the North Caucasus.

Bulletin No. 5, March 1, 1943.



Gabriel Bretocq

A BYZANTINE EMPEROR'S BRIDGE FENCES OFF ADANA'S OL' SWIMMIN' HOLE

One of the arches of the 300-yard-long stone bridge over the Seyhan River at Adana is said to date from the reign of Justinian in the 6th century. As the buttress of the third arch does not match the other piers, it may have been part of the restoration done in 743 A. D. In the warm, shallow water near the bridge schoolboys share their swimming hole with a water buffalo. Across the river the palm tree beside the minaret indicates the almost tropical climate of this southeastern corner of Turkey's Mediterranean coast. The river from Adana to the sea is deep enough for shipping olives, figs, oranges, and other fruits grown in the region. The Berlin-Baghdad Railway runs through Adana. A spur line to Mersin passes Tarsus, once the scene of exciting historic events, now an insignificant commercial town. There St. Paul was born, Alexander's army marched in, Caesar visited, and Antony met Cleopatra.

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